

**Manistee and Manistee County's Cable Commission (P.E.G.)
Meeting of October 12, 1994**

The meeting of the P.E.G. Board of Commissions met at the City Hall Building, 70 Maple Street, Manistee at 7p.m. Attending were the 5 member board, Tom Kaminski, William Shales, Deb Terrell, Angela Morin, and Nancy LeMire. Also attending were Mark Carlson, Cliff Edward Selkoe, Ben Bifoss and Tex Collins.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deb Terrell, and the minutes of the Sept. 27 were presented by Secretary Nancy LeMire and approved.

Ms. Terrell received a video tape from the Cherry Capital Cable Council on Public Access Policy, also their Rules and By-Laws. A copy of the by-laws were passed out to each member, and the videotape will be reviewed by Ms. Morin and she will pass it on to each member before the next meeting. Also received as study material were copies of memo draft from Ronda Edwards on "Introduction to Public Access Video" for four training sessions. Also a letter from C-Tec Cable Systems on the recent changes in Federal legislation regarding the use of channels for public, education, and governmental (P.E.G.) access use.

Because we are still in the learning stage Ms. Terrell suggested we take few more weeks to study and absorb this information and then come back with our mission statement and what we might adopt from this.

A question came up about if this committee had any funding to purchase learning tapes and was answered by Mr. Bifoss that there is an account from general funds for commissions for a flat amount and he feels in the future this board would be but at this point it was irrelevant.

Ms. Morin asked if the board could get copies of any complaints that have been received by the City Commission about Channel 2 or Infoprod, Mr. Bifoss stated that he has received none.

The board feels it is technically too early to address the issue of operator or equipment or setting up a studio or perhaps bring in West Shore College.

Ms. Morin asked for clarification as to why there was a forming of the P.E.G. board. Mr. Bifoss explained as follows: The FCC Regulation, more specifically the franchising agreement, that there is a public education channel (P.E.G.). That is Channel 2, under the franchise agreement, the City of Manistee are the franchise agent - we have the authority to designate how the channel is operated and rules and regulations. The events that led to a P.E.G. commission was probably due to Mr. Selkoe's request for control of 1/2 of the channels time that was available and Tex Collin's insistence at a City Council meeting that the Public Access be looked into, but the City Council did not have the time to go into depth. So the P.E.G. commission was established. We have to be very careful that content be neutral because the city government can't get in the business of regulating content. But the first amendment must always be kept in mind.

It was decided that the next meeting would be November 2 at 6p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:20p.m.